



4 August 2022

Statement by Loureen Sayej, Third Secretary, before the Main Committee I of Tenth Review Conference of the Parties of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Allow me to congratulate you for chairing the Main Committee One and assure you of Palestine's full support.

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the statements made by Jordan on behalf of the Arab Group and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

For over 54 years the NPT has sought the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. 54 years since the Nuclear-Weapons States and Non-Nuclear Weapon States got into a legally binding contract to conduct multilateral negotiations on effective measures for complete and full disarmament.

Mr. Chair,

Compliance with Article VI (6) of the NPT is neither optional nor conditional. Likewise, the possession of nuclear weapons is not a conferred legal right; it is not an entitlement and most certainly not indefinite. In fact, nuclear weapons have been and will always be illegal and their existence is, therefore, temporary.

On this premise, the State of Palestine calls on all Parties, particularly Nuclear-Weapon States, to implement their obligations and unassuming commitments, fully and effectively, under the NPT, the 1995 decision, and the action plan of 2010, among others.

The Treaty was a negotiated product of finely tuned compromises; an accepted balance of responsibilities and obligations to which accountability could be measured, monitored, and strengthened, within defined programme of negotiations on a comprehensive treaty.

Here, we affirm that bilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament are not a substitute and shall neither supplant multilateral negotiations nor undermine the obligations under the NPT. We recall that the elimination of nuclear weapons is a matter of international priority and requires collective and inclusive efforts.

Mr. Chair,

We are watching with horror as the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons has insidiously seeped into our political, military, and diplomatic doctrines; only to be exacerbated by justifications legitimizing the existence of nuclear weapons as a matter of so-called “nuclear deterrence”, and unabated modernization of nuclear weapons, their delivery systems, and infrastructure.

We reaffirm that nuclear deterrence is an oxymoron; it is not a sane, safe, or sustainable model. Peace and stability will not arise by the threat of assured and mutual destruction. International security is national security and cannot be achieved under the crushing burden of nuclear weapons.

The only existential security threat that we have is the very existence of nuclear weapons. We shall not deflect from this fact. It is at the core of the disarmament machinery and at the core of this Treaty.

The State of Palestine hopes that the conclusion of this Conference includes unequivocal reaffirmations as well as concrete actions for new multilateral negotiations on effective measures for the total disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

It is not within the purview of this Conference to assess whether Nuclear -Weapon States are acting responsibly or irresponsibly. The mere existence of nuclear weapons is irresponsible. Such dichotomy, we warn, underestimates the half -century sustained efforts of formulating and implementing the most extraordinary international disarmament machinery.

Finally, the strength of the Treaty lies in its totality; it lies in the political, moral, and common will to move together and to act quickly, as for each day that passes, disarmament becomes more pressing and the possibilities become more distant.

The world’s hopes for peace rest on our efforts, here in these United Nations, to produce a successful outcome. It is an obligation that we must pursue and a moral, political, and a historic test that we cannot afford to fail.

Thank you